

patients should be advised to occupy and divert their mind in some way as the hour for defecation approaches, and to attempt evacuating the bowel at the very first manifestation of the desire." He says, further, that constipation has been cured by hypnotic suggestion, and also by worshipping and praying to idols, religious relics, the Holy Virgin of Lourdes, by wearing chains, kissing precious stones, or by carrying about amulets which have a reputation for healing certain ailments. His discussion of these subjects is interesting, and presents a pleasing variation in the literary treatment of a subject which does not lend itself readily to fancy or romance.

It must not be thought, however, that the book is not a valuable and practical addition to the literature of the subject. Perhaps when it takes in—as it does—a consideration of splanchnoptosis it is going somewhat beyond the promise of its title. But those sections also are well done, and represent the latest views as to causation, symptoms, and treatment of enteroptosis generally. The chapter on massage is admirable. The teachings as to diet and exercise are among the clearest and most practical with which we are familiar. The various methods and appliances for mechanical vibration, for the use of hydrotherapy and of electricity, and other physical therapeutic procedures, are described exhaustively.

The author is obviously an enthusiast in the direction of the drugless management of constipation and of obstipation—which he defines as "a special variety of constipation brought about as the result of some *mechanical* obstruction to the free passage of the feces through the intestines, as, for example, congenital deformities, stricture, pressure by neighboring organs, tumors, foreign bodies, hypertrophy of the rectal valves, angulation, etc." But his enthusiasm has not made him unreasonable or impractical, and the book may be warmly commended as likely to be of great use to both the surgeon and the general practitioner.

J. W. W.

AMERICAN PRACTICE OF SURGERY. Edited by JOSEPH D. BRYANT, M.D., LL.D., and ALBERT H. BUCK, M.D., of New York City. Vol. V; pp. 965, with 452 illustrations. New York: William Wood & Co., 1908.

In the fifth volume of the *American Practice of Surgery*, regional surgery, comprising Part XVI of the entire work, is commenced. Surgical affections and wounds of the head, by Edward Archibald, M.D., of Montreal, is the opening monograph, and occupies 375 pages; the surgery of the cranial nerves is discussed in 37 pages by Charles H. Frazier, M.D., of Philadelphia; Dr. Charles B. G. de Nancrède covers the subject of surgical diseases, certain abnormalities,

and wounds of the face, in a satisfactory and as entertaining a manner as the subject permits; there follow articles on harelip and cleft palate, by James S. Stone, M.D., of Boston; on surgical diseases and wounds of the eye, by George C. Harlan, M.D., of Philadelphia; on surgical diseases and wounds of the ear, by Robert Lewis, Jr., M.D., and on sinus thrombosis of otitic origin, and suppurative disease of the labyrinth, by John D. Richards, M.D., both of New York City; pyogenic diseases of the brain of otitic origin, by Henry Ottridge Reik, M.D., of Baltimore; surgical diseases and wounds of the pharynx, by Charles H. Knight, M.D.; surgical diseases and wounds of the larynx and trachea, by James E. Newcomb, M.D., and on laryngectomy, by Frank Hartley, M.D., all of New York City.

Dr. Archibald has given us, in his monograph on the surgery of the head, an article encyclopedic in character and well illustrated by statistics from the Royal Victoria Hospital, including autopsy and operative investigations of much value. He gives an excellent historical and critical account of the mechanism of skull fractures; and traces our knowledge of the pathogenesis of compression of the brain up to Cushing's work, through the previous observations of von Bergmann, von Schultén, and Leonard Hill. He lays stress on the value of blood pressure in diagnosis and prognosis in cases of compression, and on the fact that the "vagus pulse" is no indication of the *degree* of compression present, merely testifying to its existence; he insists on the value of the depth and rhythm of the respirations as an aid in diagnosis of the degree of compression; and on the fact that though failure of the respiratory centre usually precedes failure of heart action, yet that the former is always due to anemia of the vasomotor centre. The subject of concussion of the brain remains in a much more obscure state than that in which compression has been put by modern investigation, the main symptoms being unconsciousness, with a moderate or rapid pulse, slow and later normal respiration, and low blood pressure. Archibald holds that the immediate unconsciousness is due to anemia of the brain, and that prolonged unconsciousness is caused by a prolonged anemia due to the marked depression of the vasomotor tone, and to capillary thromboses and cerebral (intracortical) oedema; he contends that these symptoms cannot be due to direct injury of the ganglionar cells, since in such case the symptoms would be permanent; he concludes, finally, that the lesions commonly classed as those of contusion are, if present in cases of concussion, mere by-products, not causes themselves of the symptoms of concussion, because they are present also when no symptoms of concussion exist. Should the symptoms of compression appear after those of concussion subside, he urges decompressive craniectomy even in the absence of all focal signs. This is a matter about which surgeons are not agreed; and no doubt more harm than good would be done were the average

surgeon to adopt decompression as a routine treatment. We say the average surgeon, not doubting his mere operative skill, but questioning his ability or willingness to study his cases of head injury so carefully as to enable him to reach a rational conclusion as to which patients he might reasonably hope to save by operation; and we think Archibald does well to insist on the propriety of the surgeon himself exhaustively examining and attentively observing for prolonged intervals patients who are too often left to the entire care of an interne or a nurse, because thought on superficial examination to be hopeless cases. Were surgeons to investigate the mortality of their unoperated as well as of their operative cases of severe head injury, they would be surprised at the mortality, and would be more ready in the future to study in person even apparently doomed cases with a view to their operative relief. These remarks apply as well to fractures as to compression without fracture, and to meningeal hemorrhages due to trauma.

Archibald considers intradural much more frequent than extradural hemorrhages, the former including subdural or extrapial hemorrhages. In discussing the subject of pulsating exophthalmos no notice is taken of the work of de Schweinitz and Holloway (1907), in which they came to the conclusion that ligation of the orbital veins is the best treatment. Archibald still recommends ligation of the internal carotid. He concludes his article with an excellent account of brain tumors, and the technique of cerebral operations.

Frazier's contribution to the surgery of the cranial nerves covers the subject in a satisfactory manner, but the illustrations of excision of the Gasserian ganglion are rather disappointing, making the ganglion appear altogether too easy of access and too near the surface. He gives the mortality of the modern operation as only 3.7 per cent. It is a pity that no bibliography accompanies the text; most of the articles are so supplemented.

Stone recommends that operation for harelip be done between the age of six weeks and three months, and that for cleft palate between six and ten or fifteen months.

The inclusion in a modern system of surgery of articles on the so-called specialties (eye, ear, etc.) is often adversely criticised, but we think the editors are quite justified in not excluding these subjects. This system of surgery doubtless reaches many who have neither modern text-books on these specialties nor specialists at hand to whom they can refer their patients on short notice; and the authors of these sections, with few exceptions, have been careful to confine themselves to such affections as any general surgeon may be called upon to treat. The longest article, that by Harlan, on the eye, is quite an encyclopedia in itself, and, in addition to epitomizing the literature of the subject, is enriched both pictorially and textually from the author's own ample experience. Lewis warns the surgeon in undertaking a "mastoid operation" always to be prepared to open

the lateral sinus, to excise the jugular vein, or to open the skull and explore for cerebral or cerebellar abscess. That this is good advice is not to be heedlessly denied; but it is quite apparent to the general surgeon that the otologist sometimes pushes his operative intervention too far in the case of patients acutely ill; and that better ultimate results will be obtained if at the first operation the mastoid cells and antrum are merely drained, and if the complete operation be postponed until more strength is gained. A. P. C. A.

ARTERIOSCLEROSIS: ETIOLOGY, PATHOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, PROGNOSIS, PROPHYLAXIS, AND TREATMENT. By LOUIS M. WARFIELD, A.B., M.D., Instructor in Medicine in the Washington University Medical Department, St. Louis, Mo. With an introduction by W. S. THAYER, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. Pp. 165; 8 illustrations. St. Louis, Mo.: C. V. Mosby Medical Book Company, 1908.

MONOGRAPH writing has been sadly neglected by the American physicians, yet books dealing with a single subject may be of the utmost value. An essential requisite, however, is that the book should be authoritative. This does not necessarily mean that a name distinguished in medical literature should be upon the title page, but that the writer display a mastery of his subject, not merely the result of reading, but also of personal familiarity.

The present volume does not meet this requirement. It is largely a compilation, and yet only occasionally is the source mentioned. The arrangement is not good. The author does not seem to have understood clearly in some places just what part of the subject he is discussing. Thus, in the chapter on etiology, his paragraph on the congenital form is a mere statement of its existence. The symptoms and physical signs are sadly jumbled, and in different parts of the chapters devoted to them, indeed, in different parts of the book, there is much repetition. It is true that the symptoms and signs of arteriosclerosis are at best somewhat indefinite, but this renders more necessary a clear presentation of the facilities and limitations of our present methods of diagnosis. An unfortunate feature is a tendency to make a statement, and then to retract or qualify it somewhat farther along, leaving the reader in a confused state. The treatment of hypertension throughout the book illustrates this defect.

In the section on prophylaxis, there are a good many familiar platitudes: (page 120) "The struggle for existence is keen," etc.; (page 121) "We live rapidly, burning the candle at both ends," etc. The author lays great stress upon the importance of early diagnosis